

WE THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE HOLIDAY EVEN BRIGHTER

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Gomez, Julio & Jeanette
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Kerbel, Angel & Josefina
Kerbel, Frejda
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Kinzer, Harold & Marion
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Onichini, Maria L.
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Perez, Raimundo
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Planas, Carlos & Donna
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Quinones, Elio & Dulce
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Radvila, Stefanisa
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Reyes, Antonio & Aida

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Santos, Jaime P.
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Wiescholek, Martin
Winter, Florence
Yanes, Lourdes
Yero, Efren & Adelfa
Zambrano Family
Zander, Katherine
Zatoni, Jane Maria
Zelenka, Lydia & Igor

Cont. from Pg 1 TOWN OF SURFSIDE CHARTER AMENDMENT REFERENDUM: POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Surfside Town Commission has recognized that public participation in planning and zoning processes serves to further the goal of properly managing growth and of democratically providing for the preservation and protection of a community's character and integrity. Town officials have hosted many public hearings and workshops on issues of comprehensive planning, zoning, and municipal codes. Extraordinary steps have persistently been taken to involve the public and its input into all of these vital functions.

To further these goals, the Town Commission has now authorized the placing of an Amendment to the Town Charter on the ballot for the regular election scheduled to be conducted in March of 2004. The Charter Amendment, if approved, will ensure that development density and building height cannot be increased within the Town unless its citizens approve any such increase through a referendum. Any future proposed increase in zoning limitations would first have to comply with applicable legal requirements, gain the approval of the Town Commission, and would then have to obtain final approval from the people of Surfside.

Miami-Dade County is one of the most

intensely developed counties in the United States. While citizens of the County have benefited from growth in a variety of ways, in many instances development has been allowed, even encouraged, without giving adequate attention to negative consequences. Poorly planned or excessive growth can irreparably damage neighborhoods by allowing incompatible structures and densities. Overdevelopment can harm the quality of life of a community's citizens by undermining public services and overburdening transportation and education facilities and services, impairing evacuation capabilities particularly in coastal areas, and destroying the beauty and character of neighborhoods and communities.

Surfside's Town officials recognize that any consideration, at any time in the future, that may allow for an increase in the density or height of buildings would be a fundamental and substantial change in managing growth for the future of the Town. Surfside's leadership also recognizes, advocates and supports the value of public participation in such crucial activities.

Public participation in decisions relating to these issues will lead to more informed, more representative, more transparent, and overall better decisions. The future of

Surfside, like other communities throughout Florida, depends upon its land use and planning decisions. For these reasons, the Town Commission has proposed the upcoming Charter Amendment that will give the citizens of the Town of Surfside the choice of whether they wish to reserve to themselves the final authority to make any fundamental decisions regarding the future of the Town's zoning limitations. Surfside's Town Commission is providing the opportunity for Town residents to have that ultimate authority for themselves. The Commission's action reflects pride and confidence in the community. A "YES" vote in the upcoming referendum would amend the Charter, accomplish that objective, and help to protect Surfside's future.

Surfside's public interest zoning policies and the record of its achievements is online at

www.town.surfside.fl.us/policies.html and all residents are encouraged to visit that site and learn more about how Surfside is at the forefront of preventing overdevelopment and preserving our wonderful home town community.

KEEPING SURFSIDE CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE

The Town of Surfside places a high priority on keeping the community clean and attractive. In fact, Surfside's sanitation services have been lauded as among the best in America. The Sanitation Department does an excellent job under the management of the Town administration and the policies of the Commission.

The Town takes great pride in its Solid Waste service and the cost at which it is provided. The Town picks up garbage (household wastes) and trash (bulky waste and properly disposed of yard waste) every day of the week except Sunday. The cost for this is only \$155 per year for a single-family home. Condominium units pay only \$145 per year for the same service and schedule. Most other municipalities provide much less service for much more money. All of the Town's streets are swept regularly, and continuous attention is paid to all public areas including parks, playgrounds, sidewalks, recreation areas, public facilities, drainage systems, and underground utilities.

Environmental, recreational and public health priorities are essential to the Town's management of all public areas. The State, County and Town are now cooperating on the removal of non-native, intrusive plants from the beach, in improving cross-over paths to the shore, in enhancing the views and protection of the beaches' natural state, and in improvements to the dunes.

The Town continues to prevent any commercial activities or businesses from operating on the beach. The sand is cleaned and maintained by Miami-Dade County, and the beach areas are monitored and patrolled by Surfside. Our beaches are amongst the most beautiful and tranquil beaches. Our public beaches are used by residents and visitors every day of the year.

Recycling is provided to the Town by an outside contractor, Community Recycling, and costs only \$19 per year for single-family and condominium units and most businesses. Every Wednesday, recycling bins are picked up at curbside. The Town is proud to recycle well over 500 tons of material a year and that number is increasing each year. Vice Mayor Tim Will recently initiated a pilot project for the Town to begin composting certain materials.

Surfside leads the way in efficient, outstanding services in the areas of sanitation and environmental protection. **For information about Town services or your sanitation bill, to report a missed solid waste or recycling pickup, or to order new recycling bins, contact the Town Hall staff at (305)861-4863.** As a community, as a Team, Surfside will continue to manage and protect its resources in the best interests of our home town's present and future.